

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 have been rejected. Claims 1, 8 and 11 herewith are amended. Claims presently active are claims 1-14. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The rejection is traversed. Applicants made necessary amendments to the claims by removal of the wording "preferably", in accordance with the Examiner's comments in the Office Action. These amendments are deemed to now conform the claims to the requirements of the rules.

Relying on 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the Examiner rejected claims 1 as being anticipated by Scarlata (US 5,518,230). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection, and request reconsideration. Applicants respectfully submit that an important and material feature of their invention as claimed is not disclosed in the reference. Applicants respectfully submit that Scarlata fails to teach or suggest the feature that at least two conveyors can rotate independently about an axis.

Scarlata shows a system having two arms (reference 21) on which the conveyors of the invention are read. If so, the conveyors rotate about the same axis. However as it appears in figure 3, both arms are part of a material and thus implicitly non-deformable disc. The arms are therefore bound in their rotation about the axis. The fact that the arms are bound in rotation does not prevent from accepting a next sheet when the preceding is still transported. However good placement can be achieved only for sheets uniform in size and format.

The invention provides for conveyors that are not bound. To the contrary, the conveyors are independent in their rotation about the same axis. This does not prevent synchronized rotation, but also allows non synchronized rotation so as to fit to sheets with non uniform format.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to define an invention that is new.

Applicant(s) therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

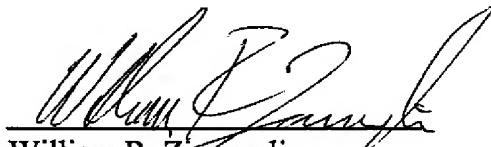
Claims 2-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlata, in view of Ruenzi. The rejection is traversed. Claims 2-7 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and therefore believed to be patentable along with claim 1 in view of the above.

Claims 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarlata. The rejection is traversed. Claim 8 as amended has been made dependent on claim 1. Claims 8-14 are now directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and therefore believed to be patentable along with claim 1 in view of the above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims 1-14 are now deemed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.